(c) There are 29 unions/associations in the Department of Posts out of which 18 are recognized through the check-off system of verification process.

(d) Limited trade union facilities such as (i) channel of communication; (ii) informal meetings with senior officers; and (iii) office accommodation subject to availability, have been extended to the unrecognized unions/ associations, affiliated to Bharatiya Postal Employees Federation.

Complaint against district Managers of Sanchar Nigam, Lucknow

†903. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received serious complaints against some of the District Managers of Sanchar Nigam, Lucknow, area who were receiving house rent for a long period while suppressing the fact that they were staying in Government Telephone Exchange building;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said officers have been found guilty in the vigilance inquiry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action to be taken by Government against such currupt officers; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Complaint against TDM, Mainpuri only has been received.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) One room at the 1st Floor of OCB exchange building, Mainpuri was being used by the officer as a residence at Manipuri. The officer has drawn HRA from July 2001 to June 2002 as TDM Mainpuri.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) Orders have been issued for recovery of HRA drawn during the unauthorized period. In addition, orders have been issued to initiate disciplinary action against the officer.

Call Tariff of Fixed Telephones

904. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while in the case of mobile phones, the call tariff are inversely proportional to the number of calls, *i.e.* more the calls, lesser the tariff which is an internationally accepted commercial prudence;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as against the above norms, the call tariff of fixed telephone lines increases direclty in proportion to the number of calls, *i.e.* more the calls, higher the tariff;

(c) whether Government are considering to reverse tariff in respect of the fixed telephones in the manner adopted for mobile phone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Airtime charges in case of mobile subscribers in only one component of mobile tariff. The service providers are offering various alternative tariff options where the monthly rental and per minute airtime charges may be different depending upon the usage pattern of the subscribers. While in most tariff schemes, call charges per minute remain constant irrespective of the number of calls, some Service Providers are also offering tariff schemes where the per minute call charges are inversely proportional to the number of calls. However, it is difficult to establish an exact relationship between airtime charges and the actual usage due to large number of tariff plans being offered by different operators.

(b) The call tariff for fixed telephone lines is based on slab-system, under which call rates beyond 500 calls are uniform. The charges are less in case of low user subscribers in whose case the affordability criteria have been taken into consideration.